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# OUTLINE TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY.

## III.

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### THE CLASSIFICATION OF PROPHETICAL MATERIAL.

#### 1. CLASSIFICATION OF PROPHETICAL SCHOOLS OF INTERPRETATION.<sup>1</sup>

- 1) The rationalistic school.
- 2) The predictive school.
  - a) The literalistic interpretation.
  - b) The spiritualistic interpretation.
- 3) The historical school.
  - a) The conditional interpretation.
  - b) The ideal interpretation.

#### 2. CLASSIFICATION OF PROPHETICAL MATERIAL ACCORDING TO ITS CHARACTER.<sup>2</sup>

- 1) *Living prophecy*, that is, lives and events as such, without reference to the record of them.
- 2) *Experience prophecy*, that is, stories of the past concerning great lives and significant events.
- 3) *Descriptive prophecy*, that is, descriptions of the present, its wickedness, its obligations, etc.
- 4) *Predictive prophecy*, that is, predictions of the future, whether of calamity or of glory.

<sup>1</sup> Immer, *Hermeneutics of the N. T.* (transl. by Newman), 5-103; Leathes, *O. T. Prophecy*, 3-16, 235-56; Elliott and Harsha, *Bib. Hermeneutics*, 8-50; Oehler, *O. T. Theology*, 484-94; Briggs, *Mess. Proph.*, 1-66; Farrar, *Hist. of Interpretation*; Terry, *Biblical Hermeneutics*,<sup>2</sup> 31-70, 313-26; Davidson, *The False Prophets, Exp.*, July 1895, 1-17; Burnham, *Manual of O. T. Interpretation*, 100-7, 124-41, 177-206.

<sup>2</sup> See *Biblical World*, Jan. 1896, p. 44.

### 3. CLASSIFICATION OF PROPHETICAL MATERIAL ACCORDING TO ITS CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.<sup>1</sup>

- 1) *Preliminary inquiry* as to date, authorship, circumstances of origin, occasion and purpose.
- 2 *Materials for this inquiry.*
  - a) The book or writing itself.
    - (1) The diction and style.
    - (2) Historical allusions.
    - (3) Religious ideas.
  - b) Outside sources.
- 3) *Principles in accordance with which this inquiry is made.*
  - a) Evidence may be gained from a study of language, style, etc.
  - b) The method of history-writing employed, viz., compilation.
  - c) Each writer spoke primarily for his own times.
  - d) The sacred narratives, neither science, history, nor poetry as such.
  - e) Distinction to be made between an event, and the record of the event.
  - f) Distinction to be made between an original utterance and the later literary form of the utterance.
  - g) The writer influenced in his selection of material, and in his form of presentation, by the purpose which he has in mind.
- 4) *The most important problems.*
  - a) The work of Moses.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> W. R. Smith, *The O. T. in the Jewish Church*; Bartlett, *Sources of History in the Pentateuch*; Briggs, *Biblical Study*, 75-104; Bissell, *The Pentateuch*; Driver, *Introduction*<sup>2</sup>; Sayce, *Higher Criticism and the Verdict of the Monuments*, 1-60; Sanday, *Inspiration*,<sup>2</sup> 124-67; Harper and Green, *The Pentateuchal Question, Hebraica*, Oct. 1888-July 1892; Cheyne, in W. R. Smith, *The Prophets of Israel*<sup>2</sup>, VII.-XLVIII.

<sup>2</sup> Kalisch, *A Hist. and Crit. Comm. on the O. T.*, Gen., Exodus, and Lev., I. and II.; Stanley, *Lectures on the Hist. of the Jewish Church*, I; Curtiss, *The Levitical Priests*; Delitzsch, *Pentateuch-kritische Studien*, i-xii, ZKWL, 1880; Reuss, *Die Geschichte der Heiligen Schriften*, 1-95; König, *Der Offenbarungs begriff des A. T.*, 2 vols.; Green, *Moses and the Prophets*; Wellhausen, *Skizzen und Vorarbeiten*, II., *Prolegomena*, Art. *Moses* in *Ency. Brit.*; Bissell, *The Pentateuch*; Green, *The Hebrew Feasts*; Graf, *Der heutige Stand der alttestamentlichen Wissenschaft*; Dillmann, *Die Genesis*,<sup>6</sup>

- b) The psalms to be assigned to David.<sup>1</sup>
- c) The relative position of J and E.<sup>2</sup>
- d) The date of Joel.<sup>3</sup>
- e) The correct interpretation of Hosea 1-3.<sup>4</sup>

*Die Bücher Exodus und Leviticus*,<sup>2</sup> *Die Bücher Numeri, Deuteronomium und Josua*<sup>2</sup>; Kuenen, *The Hexateuch*; Vos, *The Mosaic Origin of the Pentateuchal Codes*; Stade, *Geschichte*, I., 1-180; *Moses and His Recent Critics*, edited by Chambers; Briggs, *The Higher Criticism of the Hexateuch*; Addis, *The Documents of the Hexateuch*; Klostermann, *Der Pentateuch*; Holzinger, *Einleitung in den Hexateuch*; Driver, *Introduction*<sup>2</sup>, 1-150; König, *Einleitung*, 134-245; Green, *The Higher Criticism of the Pentateuch*; Green, *The Unity of the Book of Genesis*; Renan, *History of the People of Israel*, I., 131-78; Kittel, *A History of the Hebrews*, I.; Rawlinson, *Moses, His Life and Times*, Taylor, *Moses the Lawgiver*; Art. in Smith's *Bib. Dict.*

<sup>1</sup> Hitzig, *Psalms*; Olshausen, *Die Psalmen*; Tholuck, *Book of Psalms*; Hupfeld, *Psalms*; Binnie, *The Psalms*; Alexander, *The Psalms*,<sup>6</sup> 2 vols.; Cook, Johnson and Elliott, *Psalms (The Bible Comm.)*; MacLaren, *The Life of David as reflected in the Psalms*; Ewald, *Commentary on the Psalms*, 2 vols.; Murray, *Lectures on the Origin and Growth of the Psalms*; W. R. Smith, *The O. T. in the Jewish Church*, 176-207; Graetz, *Kritischer Kommentar zu den Psalmen*; Bickell, *Carmina Veteris Testamenti metrica*; Vincent, *Gates into the Psalm-Country*; Perowne, *The Book of Psalms*<sup>6</sup>; Delitzsch, *A Commentary on the Book of Psalms*, 3 vols.; Cheyne, *The Book of Psalms, The Origin and Religious Contents of the Psalter*; Baethgen, *Die Psalmen*; Reuss, *Die hebräische Poesie*, 1-292; Sharpe, *The Student's Handbook to the Psalms*; Driver *Introduction*,<sup>2</sup> 337-67.

<sup>2</sup> See references under n. 2, p. 200.

<sup>3</sup> Justi, *Joel*; Credner, *Der Prophet Joel*; Graetz, *Der einheitliche Charakter der Prophetie Joels*; Ewald, *Prophets of the O. T.*, I., 107-14; Merx, *Die Prophetie des Joel*, Montet, *De recentissimis disputationibus de Joelis aetate*; Matheson, *Joel, Exp.*, III., 1882, 191-203; Pearson, *The Prophecy of Joel*; Matthes, *Joel, Theol. Tijd.*, 1885, 34-66, 129-60, 1887, 357-81; Beecher, *JSBLE*, June-December, 1888, 14-40; Davidson, *Joel, Exp.*, VII., 1888, 198-211; Kessner, *Das Zeitalter des Propheten Joel*; Holzinger, *Joel, ZAW*, IX., 89-131; Kuenen, *Onderzoek*,<sup>2</sup> II., 338-55; Preuss, *Die Prophetie Joels*; Gerber, *Das Zeitalter des Propheten Joel, Theol. Quartal.*, 1889, 3, 355-86; Kirkpatrick, *Doctrine of the Prophets*, 46-78; Driver, *Introduction*,<sup>2</sup> 287-93; Gray, *Exp.*, VIII., 1893, 208-25.

<sup>4</sup> Wünsche, *Der Prophet Hosea*; Davidson, *Exp.*, X., 1879, 241-64; Cox, *Exp.*, X., 1879, 422-32; Hitzig, *Die zwölf kleinen Propheten*,<sup>4</sup> 6-19; Matheson, *Hosea, Exp.*, IV., 1882, 132-45; Sharpe, *Notes and Dissertations upon the Prophecy of Hosea*; Pusey, *The Minor Prophets*, I., 9-45; Denio, *Hosea*, 1, 2, *O. T. Stud.*, April 1888, 249-53; Murphy, *Hosea*, 1, 2, *O. T. Stud.*, June 1888, 319-20; Kuenen, *Onderzoek*,<sup>2</sup> II., 323-38; Cheyne, *Hosea*; Oort, *Hosea, Theol. Tijd.*, 1890, 345-64, 480-505; Elmslie, *Hosea, Exp.*, III., 1891, 63-80; Reuss, *Die Propheten*, 85-92; Wellhausen, *Skizzen und Vorarbeiten*, V., 95-105; Driver, *Introduction*,<sup>2</sup> 280-7; Schmoller, *Hosea (Lange, Minor Prophets)*, 1-48.

- f) The date of publication of Deuteronomy.<sup>1</sup>
- g) The authorship of Isaiah 40–66.<sup>2</sup>
- h) The relation of Ezekiel 40–48 to P or the Levitical code.<sup>3</sup>
- i) The relation of P to J, E, and D.<sup>4</sup>
- j) The date and place of Zechariah 9–11 and 12–14.<sup>5</sup>
- k) The date of the origin and the character of Daniel, in its present literary form.<sup>6</sup>
- l) The assignment of the various psalms.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Schultz, *Das Deuteronomium*; Kleinert, *Das Deuteronomium und der Deuteronomiker*; *Deuteronomy the people's book*; Driver, *Deuteronomy*; Cheyne, *Jeremiah*, 48–86; Carpenter, *The book of Deuteronomy*, *The Mod. Rev.* 1883, 252–81; Kuenen, *The Hexateuch* 124–26; Driver, *Introduction*,<sup>2</sup> 65–96; Art. *Pentateuch* in *Ency. Brit.*, and Smith, *Bib. Dict.* See also refs. under n. 2, p. 200.

<sup>2</sup> Drechsler, *Der Prophet Jesaja*, 3 vols; Stier, *Jesaja, nicht Pseudo-Jesajas*; Rutgers, *De echtheid van het tweede gedeelte van Jesaja aangetoond*; Klostermann, *ZLTh*, 1876, 1–60; Potwin, *Bib. World*, June, 1894, 435–9; Cheyne, *Isaiah, Exp.*, Feb. 1895, 81–93; see also refs. in *Bib. World*, Feb. 1896, p. 123, n.

<sup>3</sup> Graf, *Geschichtliche Bücher*, 81–3; Bertheau, *YDTh*, 1866, 150 ff.; Klostermann, *ZLTh*, 1877, 406–45; Smend, *Der Prophet Ezechiel*, XXV.–XXVIII.; Horst, *Lev. XVII.–XXVI. und Hesekiel*; Kayser, *YPTTh*, 1881, 648–65; Mitchell, *Heb. Stud.*, Jan. and Feb. 1883, 159–60; Noldeke, *Untersuchungen zur Kritik der A. T.*, 67–71; Kuenen, *Religion of Israel*, II., 189–92; Wellhausen, *Prolegomena*, 376–84; Dillmann, *Die Bücher Numeri, Deuteronomium und Josua*<sup>2</sup>; Kuenen, *Hexateuch*, 272–87; Driver, *Introduction*,<sup>2</sup> 43–55, 123–50; Whitelaw, *Ezekiel and the Priest's Code*, *Pres. and Ref. Rev.*, July, 1894; Stebbins, *O. T. Stud.*, Apr. 1884, 289–95.

<sup>4</sup> See refs. under n. 2, p. 200.

<sup>5</sup> Hitzig, *St. Kr.*, 1830, 25–45; Bleek, *Ueber das Zeitalter von Sacharja*, *Kap. 9–14*, *St. Kr.*, 1852, 247–332; Kliefoth, *Der Prophet Sacharjah*; Stade, *Deuterozacharja*, *ZAW*, I., 1–96; Lowe, *The Heb. Student's Comm. on Zech.*; Perowne, *Haggai and Zechariah*, 47–157; Cheyne, *JQR*, 1889, 76–83; Kuenen, *Onderzoek*,<sup>2</sup> 408–26; Staerk, *Untersuchungen über die Komposition und Abfassungkeit von Zach. 9 bis 14*; Graetz, *The Last Chapter of Zech.*, *JQR*, Jan. 1891, 208–19; Marti, *Der Prophet Sacharja*; Rubinkam, *The Second Part of the Book of Zech.*; Driver, *Introduction*,<sup>2</sup> 322–33; Eckardt, *ZAW*, XIII., 76–109.

<sup>6</sup> Lenormant, *La Divination chez les Chaldeans*, 169 ff; Meinhold, *Die Compos. des B. Daniel*; Orelli, *O. T. Prophecy*, 454–67; Fuller, *The Book of Daniel in the light of recent Research and Discovery*, *Exp.*, I., 1885, 217–25, 431–38; II., 437–47; Meinhold, *Beiträge zur Erkl. des B. Daniel*; König, *Einleitung*, 382–93; Bevan, *A short Comm. on the Book of Daniel*; Driver, *Introduction*,<sup>2</sup> 458–83; Lampe, *Pres. and Ref. Rev.*, July, 1895; Cornill, *Einleitung*, 254–60.

See refs. under n. 1, p. 201.

#### 4. CLASSIFICATION OF PROPHETICAL MATERIAL ACCORDING TO HISTORICAL PERIODS.<sup>1</sup>

##### 1. Prophecy before Israel's Occupation of Canaan.

Until the time of Samuel, about 1100 B. C., Israel was hardly settled in Canaan; the work of Samuel in organization marks an epoch. What prophetic material was in existence *at the time of Samuel's birth*? This will include:

- 1) Israel's inheritance of ancient traditions handed down from father to son.
- 2) The institutions of Israel which were adopted in the earliest stages of development as embodying prophetic truth.
- 3) The most significant facts of history from Abraham to the birth of Samuel.
- 4) The prophetic utterances which were published during this period as coming from God.

##### 2. Prophecy of the United Kingdom from about 1050 B. C. to 937 B. C.

Samuel's work is so closely identified with the organization of the kingdom that it may be roughly classed with that of Saul, David and Solomon, under the title of *the United Kingdom*. What prophetic material was contributed during the lives of these four men? This will include:

- 1) The lives themselves, and the important events connected with them.
- 2) The institutions which had their origin, or on which emphasis was placed, during this period, *e. g.*, the prophetic schools, the monarchy, the temple.
- 3) The utterances of the prophets of the period, including Samuel, Nathan, Gad, etc.
- 4) The prophetic psalms of the period, whether written by David or by others.
- 5) Literary fragments, found in Genesis (*e. g.*, 49:1-27), Num. (*e. g.*, ch. 23, 24), Samuel (*e. g.*, 2 Sam. 3:33, 34), Kings (*e. g.*, 1 Kings 8:12, 13).

<sup>1</sup> This classification is intended only as a rough outline-sketch; the details will be filled out and the bibliography given in connection with the study of each separate section.

**3. Prophecy of the Northern Kingdom (937-722 B. C.).**

From the disruption at the death of Solomon, suggested and carried out by the prophets, down to the fall of Samaria, prophecy flourished especially in the North. Here belong

- 1) The significant events of history.
- 2) The work of prophets who did not write, *e. g.*, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah.
- 3) The writings of such prophets as Amos and Hosea.
- 4) The stories of the past which took their present literary form during this period; with which may be taken, by way of supplement,
- 5) Southern history and literature, during this same period.

**4. Prophecy of Isaiah and his Contemporaries (740-640 B. C.).**

Northern Israel having come to an end, there remains only Judah. This division will include the period during which Assyria lays its hand upon the chosen people.

- 1) The historical events of the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh and Amon.
- 2) The historical records which take literary form in these times.
- 3) The utterances of such prophets as Isaiah, Micah and Nahum.

**5. Prophecy of Jeremiah and his Contemporaries (640-586 B. C.).**

This is the period of the downfall of Jerusalem, and includes

- 1) The historical events from the beginning of Josiah's reign down to and including the fall of Jerusalem.
- 2) The historical records which take literary form in this period, *e. g.*, Deuteronomy, Kings.
- 3) The utterances of Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and the earlier sermons of Ezekiel.

**6. Prophecy of the Babylonian Captivity (586-538 B. C.).**

This is a period of foreign residence, including

- 1) The facts and significance of the captivity.
- 2) The literary material which took form in Babylon, *e. g.*, Job.
- 3) The Lamentations of Jeremiah; the sermons of Ezekiel,

Obadiah; the Deutero-Isaiah; the original of Daniel, and many psalms.

**7. Prophecy of the Restoration (538-459 B. C.).**

When the Jews are reinstated in Jerusalem under Zerubbabel and Joshua, a new epoch begins which includes

- 1) The events connected with and following the Restoration.
- 2) The sermons of Haggai and Zechariah (1-8) and the psalms of the times.
- 3) The sermons of Malachi.

**8. The Last Days of Prophecy.**

An indefinite period, closing at all events with the struggle of the Maccabees, 160 B.C., within which may be classified.

- 1) The events of Jewish history after 459 B.C., under Persian, Greek, and Syrian supremacy.
- 2) The books which now take on their final form, *e. g.*, the Pentateuch, Jonah, and Daniel.
- 3) The utterances found in Joel, Zechariah 9-14; the later temple-psalms, and the psalms of the Maccabean times.

**5. CLASSIFICATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE WORK OF THE PROPHET.**

Questions upon external character, relating to the Prophet, rather than to Prophecy, must also be classified, in order that the contribution of each great period with respect to each question may be obtained. These are :

- 1) *The private life of the prophet*: his parentage, home, education, occupation, and social position.
- 2) *The method of divine communication* to the prophet<sup>1</sup>: dream, vision, spiritual enlightenment, external agencies employed, lot, urim and thummim.
- 3) *The prophet's method of proclaiming the message*: oral, written; symbolic actions; literary skill, oratorical ability.
- 4) *The history-writing of the prophet*, its methods and characteristics.
- 5) *The political activity of the prophet*, its forms and principles.
- 6) *The ministerial activity of the prophet*, its forms and principles.

<sup>1</sup> Hoffmann, *ZAW*, III., 87-96; Oehler, *Theol. of the O. T.*, 464-84; Orelli, *O. T. Prophecy*, 4-25; Riehm, *Messianic Prophecy*, 14-31; Briggs, *Messianic Prophecy*, 5-18.



## 6. CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPAL IDEAS OF PROPHECY.<sup>1</sup>

It is understood that during each of the periods described above contributions toward the development of Hebrew prophetic thought were made to the sum of knowledge existing in preceding periods. These contributions covered many subjects. For the sake of convenience the following general classification of ideas is given:

- 1) Righteousness and faith.
- 2) Morality and standards of morality.
- 3) Worship and forms of worship.
- 4) Covenant between God and man.
- 5) God as a person; his manifestation of himself; his names.
- 6) The being and attributes of God.
- 7) God in creation and history.
- 8) Angels, cherubim and seraphim.
- 9) The origin, nature, dignity and destiny of man.
- 10) Evil spirits.
- 11) The origin and nature of sin; guilt.
- 12) Death and the future world.
- 13) The advent of Jehovah and Jehovah's day.
- 14) The holy land and Israel's future.
- 15) The future destruction of the heathen.
- 16) The new covenant.
- 17) The royal order and the Messianic king.
- 18) The prophetic order and prophetism.
- 19) The priestly order and the priesthood.
- 20) The suffering servant.

<sup>1</sup> Duhm, *Die Theologie der Propheten*, 118-26, 137-41, 145-9, 168-78, 183-8, 217-28, 240-51, 256-63, 287-301, 321-4; Urwick, *The Servant of Jehovah*; Oehler, *Theology of the O. T.*, 100-15, 124-37, 158-74, 437-63, 495-536; Briggs, *Messianic Prophecy*, 476-99; Duff, *O. T. Theology*; Kirkpatrick, *The Doctrine of the Prophets*; Schultz, *O. T. Theology*, 2 vols.; Piepenbring, *Theology of the O. T.*; Kayser, *Theologie des A. T.*,<sup>2</sup> 122-53, 168-72, 173-79, 229-33, 233-60, 276-90, 295; Schlottmann, *Kompendium der Bibl. Theologie*,<sup>2</sup> 65-94; W. R. Smith, *The Prophets of Israel*<sup>2</sup>; Cornill, *The Prophets of Israel*; Dillmann, *Handbuch der Alttestamentlichen Theologie*, 474-544.